

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11 are pending in the current Application, of which claims 1-3 and 11 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 4-6 have been examined in the current Office Action. Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and the Examiner has indicated that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter.

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on August 29, 2003. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate, in the next Office Action, whether such drawings are acceptable.

Also, the Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 6 due to informalities. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 5 in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,499,448 to Tournier et al. ("Tournier"). However, since claim 4 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

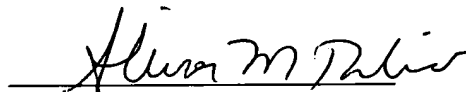
As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. Since Applicant has rewritten claim 5 into independent form, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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